

**REMARKS**

Claims 2, 9 and 10 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 9 and 10 have been newly added herewith.

**Examiner Interview**

Applicant's representative conducted a telephone interview with the Examiner on April 6, 2006. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended at that time. During the interview, Applicant's representative sought clarification of the rejection and explained the differences between the claimed invention and Kortenbach. Further details of the interview are discussed below.

**Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102**

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kortenbach (U.S. Patent No. 6,627,817). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 2 sets forth a first division member and a second division member. The first division member has a convex portion formed on an outer face and an inner face which is flat. The second division member has a concave portion for receiving a water-stop portion of the wire harness.

As discussed in the interview, the Examiner is relying on the embodiment of Fig. 11A as providing the flat face. While the Examiner also cites Figs. 1A and 15 in the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledged in the interview that there is no indication that the grommet half of Fig. 11A would be used with one of these other embodiments. Instead, the Examiner took the position, that the grommet of Fig. 11A would be used with a similarly rectangularly shaped

grommet half. However, as explained during the interview, such a device would be deficient with respect to the claimed invention.

As stated above, claim 2 recites a second division member with a concave portion for receiving the water-stop portion of the wire harness and a first division member with an inner face that is flat. Thus, claim 2 recites a flat face and a concave portion. For example, the non-limiting embodiment Figs. 2A and 2B illustrate a grommet a flat face 15 opposite a concave portion 23.

In contrast, even if the grommet shown in Kortenbach Fig. 11A could be considered as having a flat face, it would lack a concave portion as claimed. The grommet of Kortenbach's Fig. 11A is designed to accommodate a wire bundle as shown in Fig. 11B (*see* column 15, lines 34-44). Accordingly, it has a square or rectangular passage to accommodate the shape of the bundle of cables of Fig. 11B, not a concave portion. Additionally, there is no motivation for providing a concave portion, because the grommet of Fig. 11A is designed to accommodate a rectangular bundle of cables as shown in Fig. 11B. Accordingly, at least because there is no concave portion, Kortenbach fails to teach a second division member as claimed.

Also, there is no indication that the grommet of Fig. 11A has a convex outer face. Press elements 2a and 2b of the other embodiments have convex surfaces to correspond to their concave inner surfaces. Since the grommet of Fig. 11A has a square or rectangular shape (as described in the specification at column 15, lines 37-41), there is no indication that it would have a convex outer surface. Instead, it would likely have a flat outer surface to correspond to the flat inner surface. Accordingly, the grommet of Fig. 11A also cannot be a first division member with a convex portion on its outer face and an inner face with a flat face as claimed.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that claim 2 is allowable over Kortenbach.

**New Claims**

Applicant has added new claims 9 and 10 in order to more fully claim the invention. Claims 9 and 10 depend from claim 2 and are therefore allowable at least because of their dependency.

**Conclusion**

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

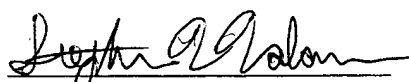
Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER



Stephen R. Valancius  
Registration No. 57,574

Date: April 20, 2006